

Message

From: Deegan, Dave [Deegan.Dave@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/11/2018 8:59:36 PM
To: Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]; Szaro, Deb [Szaro.Deb@epa.gov]; Olson, Bryan [Olson.Bryan@epa.gov]; Barmakian, Nancy [Barmakian.Nancy@epa.gov]; Downing, Jane [Downing.Jane@epa.gov]; Cassidy, Meghan [Cassidy.Meghan@epa.gov]; Moraff, Kenneth [Moraff.Ken@epa.gov]; Hamjian, Lynne [Hamjian.Lynne@epa.gov]; R1 OPA [R1_OPA@epa.gov]
Subject: Clip in today's HQ news : New Hampshire to Set Limits on Fluorochemicals in Drinking Water

New Hampshire to Set Limits on Fluorochemicals in Drinking Water

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/new-hampshire-to-set-limits-on-fluorochemicals-in-drinking-water>

Posted July 11, 2018, 11:02 AM

By [Aaron Nicodemus](#)

- New law calls for maximum contaminant levels on four toxic substances in water
- Limits to be set by Jan. 1, 2019

New Hampshire will join New Jersey, New York, and Vermont in re-evaluating what is considered a safe level of fluorochemicals in drinking water.

Gov. Chris Sununu (R), a former environmental engineer, signed a New Hampshire groundwater protection bill ([SB 309](#)) into law July 10.

The new law calls for the state's Department of Environmental Services to "set maximum contaminant limits for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)" by Jan. 1, 2019.

Once widely used in making nonstick cookware, fire-retardant upholstery coatings, and other consumer products, the chemical compounds—known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—don't break down easily in the environment and can remain in the body for extended periods. Studies show long-term exposure may affect liver and immune system function, increase cholesterol levels, cause developmental delays, and increase cancer risk.

State Burdens

The law comes on the heels of widespread contamination in Southern New Hampshire with PFOA, PFOS, and related compounds, which were linked to past releases by a plant now owned by Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics.

The private drinking water wells of more than 500 families in New Hampshire and 200 wells in nearby Vermont are contaminated with PFOA. The states traced the contamination to a former ChemFab Corp. plant in Bennington, Vt., now owned by Saint-Gobain.

Saint-Gobain didn't immediately respond to Bloomberg Environment's request for comment on the new law.

The new law also allows the Department of Environmental Services to make rules regarding the chemicals polluting the air and being deposited on soils and water; to regulate devices that are emitting or may potentially emit air pollutants; to periodically review ambient groundwater quality; and to establish water quality standards for PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, and PFHxS.

The air pollution provisions will go into effect in 60 days.

The new law also establishes and funds two new state positions for a toxicologist and a human health risk assessor in the Department of Environmental Services.

Maximum Contaminant Levels

In 2016, the EPA set a non-enforceable health advisory for PFOA and PFOS levels in drinking water at a combined 70 parts per trillion.

Vermont relied on the same research but used different assumptions to set the level at 20 parts per trillion. Peter Walke, deputy secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, said at a June 26 EPA-hosted PFAS panel that the state set the limit based on what is safe for a nursing mother and baby to consume.

Peter Grevatt, director of the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, later told Bloomberg Environment that the federal agency set the advisory at what is considered safe for an adult woman. The EPA announced in May that it will set a drinking water maximum contaminant level for PFOA and PFOS in collaboration with states.

New Jersey officials recently announced they are seeking to set the maximum contaminant level for PFOS, PFOA and PFNA by the end of the year.

New Jersey's Drinking Water Quality Institute—an advisory panel comprised of academics, community representatives, water companies, and government agencies—proposed 13 parts per trillion as a safe level for PFOS in drinking water on June 8.